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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/265,082	03/09/1999	ROY GREEFF	MI40-177	4103

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WELLS ST. JOHN P.S.
601 W. FIRST
SUITE 1300
SPOKANE, WA 99201-3828

EXAMINER

ZIMMERMAN, BRIAN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2635

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/265,082	OVARD	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian Zimmerman	2635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,3.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

Specification

1. The applicant is reminded to update the status of the copending applications referenced on page 2 of the present specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-13,21-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Hasegawa (5355519).

Hasegawa shows a phase shifter (figure 4) that includes a first power divider 54, a plurality of mixers 55 and 56 for scaling the quadrature components as claimed. The first power divider provides a ninety-degree power divider as claimed. The phase shifter also includes a second power divider 57 for combining the quadrature components to shift the phase angle of the input signal. The Hasegawa phase shifter also includes storage device 41-46 to store plural values corresponding to the phase shift angle, figure 3. The Hasegawa phase shifter is arranged to multiply one of the quadrature components by a sine or cosine value, see figure 4.

3. Claims 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hasegawa (5355519) and Baldwin (4075632).

The difference between the invention of claims 14-20 and the Hasegawa reference is the use of the phase shifter ^{receiving is used} in an interrogation system.

It is the examiner's position that this limitation exists only in the preamble and therefore is not afforded weight in the claimed invention.

However, in the alternative, Baldwin teaches the use of a phase shifter in a backscatter interrogation system. See figure 2 and description of the modulation techniques including col. 5 lines 5+. This permits the use of phase modulation in a transponder interrogation system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used the phase shifter of Hasegawa in the interrogator of Baldwin to permit the use of phase modulation in the interrogation system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 35-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa (5355519) and Baldwin (4075632).

Baldwin teaches the use of a phase shifter in the interrogator of a backscatter communication system. See figure 2 and description of the modulation techniques including col. 5 lines 5+. This permits the use of phase modulation in a transponder interrogation system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used the phase shifter of Hasegawa in the interrogator of Baldwin to permit the use of phase modulation in the interrogation system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Zimmerman whose telephone number is 703-305-4796. The examiner can normally be reached on every other friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on 703-305-4704. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



Brian Zimmerman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2635

BaZ
April 4, 2002